

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the detailed remarks and analysis. Claims 1-24 remain in the application. Applicant has enclosed with this response formal drawings.

Claims 4-15 and 19-24 were objected as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 4, 11, 12 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 and 12-13 were rejected as being anticipated by Niedermeier et al. (U.S. 5,069,560). Claims 12 and 13 were indicated as being allowable, and no art has been applied. Accordingly, claims 12 and 13 are in allowable form.

Amended claim 1 includes the limitation that each of a plurality of seal elements includes a flow path generating a desired pressure change across each of the plurality of seal elements. Niedermeier et al. does not include a flow path to provide a desired pressure change and therefore cannot anticipate amended claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection to claims 1-3 is overcome.

Claims 16-18 were rejected as being obvious over Ray et al. (U.S. 6,036,434) as modified in view of Niedermeier et al. Claim 16 requires that each of the plurality of seal elements include a flow path for generating a desired pressure change between the plurality of seal elements. The combination of Ray et al. and Niedermeier et al. does not disclose or suggest seal elements with a flow path to generate a desired pressure change. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 16-18 is overcome.

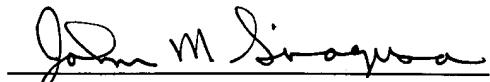
Thus, claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge \$800.00 for four additional independent claims to Deposit Account No. 08-0385, in the name of Hamilton Sundstrand. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name

of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.



John M. Siragusa
Registration No. 46,174
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
Telephone: (248) 988-8360
Facsimile: (248) 988-8363

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CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 20, 2005.



Amy M. Spaulding